NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service
South Central Regional Office
501 W. Felix Street Bldg. 23
P.O. Box 6567
Fort Worth, Texas 76115

SUBJECT: MGT – NRCS/EPA Staff Exchange **DATE:** January 30, 2003

TO: Kalven L. Trice
State Conservationist, Arkansas
Donald W. Gohmert
State Conservationist, Louisiana
M. Darrel Dominick
State Conservationist, Oklahoma
Larry D. Butler
State Conservationist, Texas

FILE CODE: 330

Attached is the biography for Van Kozak. Van entered on duty January 27, 2003, as part of a staff exchange with Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Dallas, Texas. He will be located on the Strategic Planning Team staff. Van can be reached by phone (817) 509-3293, VoiceCom-9043-3293 or by email at vkozak@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov. Please feel free to pass this information to your staff.

HUMBERTO HERNANDEZ
Regional Conservationist

Attachment

cc:
Jose Acevedo, Acting Deputy Chief for Programs, NRCS, Washington, DC
Lawrence E. Clark, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, NRCS, Washington, DC
Maurice J. Mausbach, Deputy Chief for Soil Survey and Resource Assessment, NRCS, Washington, DC
Pearlie S. Reed, West Regional Conservationist, Beltsville, MD
Rosendo Trevino III, State Conservationist, Albuquerque, NM
Steve Vargo, Associate Division Director for Pesticides, Toxics and UST/Solid Waste, EPA, Dallas, TX
Miguel I. Flores, Director, Water Quality Protection Division, EPA, Dallas, TX
Rafael Guerrero, Strategic Planner, SCRO, Fort Worth, TX
Van Kozak, EPA/NRCS Liaison, SCRO, Fort Worth, TX

January 30, 2003

Van Kozak
NRCS/EPA Liaison

Mr. Van Kozak has served as Chief of the Pesticides Section for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office in Dallas Texas for the past 15 years. In this capacity he has been responsible for support and oversight of Federal and State Pesticide Program activities in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico. EPA provides more than $3M annually to the five states in support of these activities and pesticide regulatory activities in all five states are fully delegated by EPA to the State Lead Agencies (SLAs) with whom the Regional Office has enjoyed a long cooperative relationship. The SLAs include the Texas Department of Agriculture, Arkansas State Plant Board, Louisiana Department Agriculture and Forestry, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. As Pesticides Section Chief, Mr. Kozak has been responsible for all Federal and State Pesticide program activities in the five-state region. These responsibilities include fiscal administration of Grants to the State Agencies, oversight of State program activities through routine evaluations and frequent personal contacts and intensive support and consultation. EPA staff frequently provides consultation, advice, training and manpower during joint inspections and public presentations and Pesticides Section personnel are frequently requested to support state efforts when particularly difficult and contentious pesticide issues are faced by State regulators. The EPA Region 6 pesticide program has long been recognized nationally for it's exceptionally productive relationship with state pesticide co-regulators.

Before joining the EPA Regional Office in 1987 Mr. Kozak served as both a Pesticide Toxicologist and Program Director with the Texas Department of Agriculture in Austin Texas for three years working directly with Agricultural commodity groups and producers. Mr. Kozak has also served in scientific and management capacities for the EPA Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances in Washington, D.C., Versar Consulting Inc. in Arlington, Virginia and the Wisconsin Water Resources Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Kozak received his academic training at the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin and holds degrees in Zoology and Molecular Biology. He is currently enrolled as a Ph.D. student in the Environmental Sciences Department of the University of North Texas and has begun thesis research on issues related to the use of Best Management Practices to control nutrient/sediment/pesticide impacts using watershed based approaches.